

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • September 2010

P.J. O'Rourke and Chris Buckley to Swap Satire

EVENT PREVIEW: SEPTEMBER 27

by Sonya K. Fry

Both *The Wall Street Journal* and *Time* magazine have called P.J. O'Rourke "the funniest man in America." That is a lot to live up to, but surely he is the funniest man with a serious purpose – to point out our foibles, to report in the true sense of the word and to encourage us to find solutions. He has certainly established himself as one of America's premier political satirist. And imagine what sparkling commentary can occur when O'Rourke and Chris Buckley team up.

Here are some classic O'Rourke-isms:

Healthcare reform: "I caught my six year old, Buster, playing 'healthcare provider' with one of the little girls in his first grade class. They were filling out toy forms fully clothed."

Bailout for Print Journalists: "Saving print journalism will be a bargain for the U.S. government. Nothing approaching \$787 billion required in our case. We'll settle for having the Treasury Department pay our tab at the Washington Palm."

Politics: "Whether we think politics is a bother or whether we are full of great expectations about all the good things pol-

itics tries to do, we have to scale back the scope of politics. Otherwise no good things will be accomplished. We can't treat the American government like mom, expecting her to get us off to kindergarten in the morning, fix our meals, wash the dishes, fold the laundry, keep our house clean and our grandparents happy, do the shopping and the gardening, and still somehow make herself interesting to dad. That's why mom snapped and started drinking and got in that car wreck."

After graduation from Miami University and graduate school at Johns Hopkins where he was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, O'Rourke's first jobs in journalism were at small newspapers in Baltimore and New York.

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Hidden Iran Comes Alive in Peterson's Book

EVENT PREVIEW: SEPTEMBER 20

by Sonya K. Fry

Scott Peterson is one of the most well traveled and experienced foreign correspondents of his generation. An OPC member, he was Moscow bureau chief and is currently the Istanbul bureau chief for *The Christian Science Monitor*. As evidenced by his book jacket photo, he is also a photographer for Getty Images.

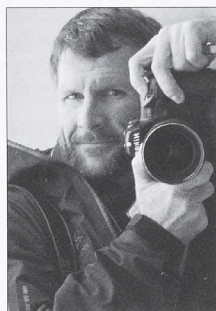
Let the Swords Encircle Me: Iran – A Journey Behind the Headlines [Simon & Schuster, September 21, 2010] is the result of more than 30 extended reporting trips to Iran since 1996. This book gives a colorful and incisive portrait of a complex, contradictory and volatile nation. Iran is a diverse society that is largely, and often deliberately, hidden from Western eyes. A bastion of revolutionary radicalism, Iran also has the most pro-American population in

the Muslim Middle East. Peterson has heard the ritual shouts of "Death to America" but also has witnessed a crowd of Iranians spontaneously prevent an American flag from being burned by militants.

Iranians are fiercely proud of their Persian heritage and cultural traditions. Some endure the political theocracy by embracing it in the name of Allah and others turn to the western extravagances of nose-job clinics and shopping malls. Perhaps most unexpectedly, Peterson finds that Americans and Iranians are remarkably similar in mind-set and belief which could make them natural allies. Peterson has found that both nations share a spiritual model, a natural arrogance, a black and white worldview, the frequent need of an "enemy" in political discourse, and a belief in their own exceptionalism.

How can the Obama administration

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Scott Peterson

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In the 70's he became the editor-in-chief of *The National Lampoon* but in the 80's he decided that the real world was funnier than anything the *Lampoon* writers could invent, so he became a roving reporter covering crises and conflicts around the world landing in capitals such as London, Berlin, Beirut, Manila and Warsaw. O'Rourke has written fourteen previous books some of which were the topics of OPC Book Nights and were always entertaining.

O'Rourke has been an OPC member since 1986. I discovered a letter from President Larry Smith to the OPC members asking why the OPC is important to them. Here is O'Rourke's reply: "I am a member of the Overseas Press Club because, as the *Rolling Stone* foreign correspondent, my press I.D. looks ridiculous. I use my O.P.C. membership card instead. I have found it highly effective for impressing third world bureaucrats, militiamen and police."

Christopher Buckley, another famous American political satirist, will act as interlocutor. It is hard to tell what will happen



Chris Buckley

when two consummate satirists get together, but join us on Monday, September 27 at 6 p.m. for a reception and at 6:30 p.m. for a unique program and perhaps even words of wisdom. Buckley, like O'Rourke, has written many books including *The White House Mess*, a satire on White House office politics, *Boomsday* on the end of the world as we know it, and his latest book *Losing Mum and Pup: A Memoir*, a son's story of his father William F. Buckley and his mother Patricia Buckley.

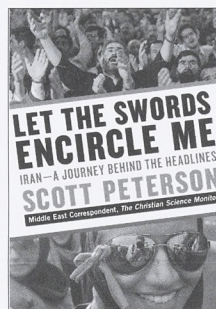
The OPC is encouraging attendees to wear campaign buttons of the silly and the serious variety. The OPC will display its own framed campaign buttons from the presidential campaign of 1896 (free silver) to the Humphrey/Muskie ticket in 1968 — a span of 72 years. Crazy campaign hats or any other paraphernalia would be fun. Since we are all about international news, having stuff from elections around the world would be a hit also. Books of both authors will be available for sale and signing. To RSVP call 212-626-9220 or e-mail sonya@opcofamerica.org or log on to the website at www.opcofamerica.org.

(Peterson Book Night, Continued From Page 1)

begin to wipe away 30 years of antagonism between the two nations? Iran was a charter member of Bush's Axis of Evil and is now often portrayed as a nuclear nation with a taste for the Apocalypse. Quietly Iran helped the U.S. in 2001 in the war in Afghanistan and yet in Iraq it seems to have supported the insurgents who thwarted U.S. operations. This book could be a crucial guide as Americans and Iranians attempt to overcome their bitter estrangement.

"Journalist Scott Peterson has written a marvelous chronicle of Iran's policies and politics. Drawing on an unparalleled

body of interviews with both the mighty and the powerless, he paints a picture of a country in all its fascinating complexity and color. Peterson is a persistent and sympathetic interviewer, but he is also a sophisticated observer of Iranian history and politics. There is simply no better portrait of the tumultuous past fifteen years in Iran — from the intrigues at the top to the attitudes of ordinary people trying to live their lives in the turmoil of the Islamic Republic." This blurb was written by Gary Sick, senior research scholar at Columbia University SIPA Middle East Institute and he will act



as interlocutor at the OPC Book Night on Monday, September 20. Sick was the principal White House aide for Iran during the Iranian Revolution and the hostage crisis and he, like Peterson, has a depth of knowledge about the enigmatic country of Iran.

The Scott Peterson Book Night with Gary Sick as interlocutor will start with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and the discussion at 7 p.m. at Club Quarters, 40 West 45th Street. To RSVP call 212-626-9220 or e-mail boots@opcofamerica.org or log on to the website at www.opcofamerica.org.

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New OPC President Outlines Agenda and Plans for 2010 and Beyond

There is a Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times." Well, we certainly do — perhaps never more interesting and at the same time challenging to our nation, our world and especially our profession as foreign correspondents. Indeed, perhaps the only promise I can make over the next two years of my tenure as president of the Overseas Press Club, is that these challenges will only become more intense, more pressing and more vital to our own survival and that of our society. But also, ever more interesting!

If I have a single goal during my two years as your president, it is to make our club more relevant, more exciting, more central to helping chronicle the global agenda by every means we have at our disposal. Central to our mission is our ability and willingness to expose the abuse to our members and their colleagues of every nationality and belief in the furthest corners of globe who are subject to repression, violence even death in the course of their duties. At the same time, we must continue to expand our ability to recognize and reward the most extraordinary accomplishments of our peers in our annual awards ceremony and gala. Finally, each week we must continue to make increasingly compelling and fulfilling our own offerings — book evenings, lectures, professional seminars, luncheons and dinners, in short any other new and original ideas that may suggest themselves — if we are to continue to grow our membership and stretch the horizons of the OPC. For all these initiatives, of course, I'd love to hear your ideas. I respond to every e-mail, return every phone call, and answer every tweet!

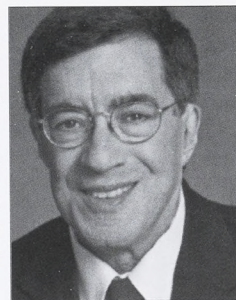
Today with the unparalleled technology available to us, we have at our disposal the means to extend the reach and visibility of the OPC, re-creating the initial vision of its creators as a gathering place — real or, today, virtual — for the exchange of ideas, contacts and good fellowship among all of us who share a common past and an exciting future.

Only in this fashion may we become truly the touchstone for all those who report on the daily life of our planet — attracting

individuals and institutions who share our mission and our goals. Resources, of course, are critical to all these efforts, and this is where I will count on each of you to pitch in to the best of your abilities, contacts and means. Each member must take an active role if we are to build the skills and the camaraderie that make the OPC what it is. For without you, we are nothing.

Finally, I'm persuaded that we are on the cusp of a new age in our profession to which we must conform, embrace in some fashion, or fail. The old era of the dashing foreign correspondent of yore is ending. The economics of our industry that so often fed our "habit" is placing in jeopardy our very way of life, indeed the long-term viability of our very organization. Accordingly, we must identify the new breed of international reporter and commentator — bloggers, tweeters, legitimate contributors to an intelligent international dialogue of all stripes. Just such a redefinition should, indeed must, be a central priority of the OPC under my stewardship, to inject new life into our membership through a new look at who we really are, what we represent and stand for, while retaining the deepest values that we prize most highly.

I am most grateful to my predecessor and friend, Allan Dodds Frank, for having turned over stewardship — fiscally and professionally — in such stellar shape. He has been an enormous asset and, I sincerely hope a valued partner going forward. Above all, I thank each of you for placing your trust and confidence in me personally. I will do my level best to live up to your expectations.



David A. Andelman

Online: Watch the passing of the gavel from Allan Dodds Frank and David A. Andelman at www.youtube.com/opcofamerica. Follow David on Twitter @DavidAndelman and the OPC @opcofamerica

An Easier Era, Digitally Speaking, to Be a Journalist Thanks to Computers

EVENT RECAP: JULY 12

by Aimee Vitrak

The New York Microsoft office held a special session for OPC members on July 12 for digital tools that may help reporters do their jobs more effectively.

OneNote 2010 was demonstrated to the group which basically allows someone who has notes here, reminders there, videos over in this bin and photos over in the other bin, a central warehouse in which to store these elements. It saves a lot of clicking and dragging around a computer desktop and acts as a collator of information and resources that might better help reporters to do their job. One of the many useful elements of OneNote is the ability to copy and paste an item from a website and have its web address, photo and text drop on to the OneNote

page with all of the other notes for a particular project. The "inadvertent plagiarism" excuse would be rendered an even weaker a claim if reporters used this type of tracking tool. OneNote comes with Microsoft Office 2010 software.

Another tool on display was the Capturx digital pen and notebook. Microsoft does not make this pen but rather works in collaboration with the company Adapx. When a person writes with the pen on a specially calibrated Capturx paper notebook, the information is recorded digitally. So say a reporter is covering an event, and takes notes using this pen and notebook, they can then download the notes onto a computer and software will "digitize" the notes taken in the field. People on hand during the demonstration liked this possibility and asked (more than once), if Microsoft had

any software that transcribed audio recordings — transcription being the bane of most reporters' existence — but not much development has been made on transcription style software.

The people giving the demonstration were receptive to the suggestions audience members had, like the need for transcription software and a "reporter-sized" notebook for the Capturx pen (its current size weighs in at just over 8 x 11 inches. Their ability to listen is a far cry from the computer world of the 1980s where developers worked in seclusion and didn't make software — or computers — with the end-user in mind.

The session lasted an hour and a half and attendees were treated to a bevy of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and walked home with a Capturx digital pen and notebook.

A Year of Governments Remaking Laws to Thwart Media Coverage

First, there is some good news. We wrote two letters of congratulations. One went to Raul Castro for releasing 52 of the 75 journalists and human rights workers who had been held in appalling conditions since the roundup of 2003. But, of course, we tempered the congratulations with a demand that the rest of the prisoners and others held for the same activities be released. We also congratulated President Obama for signing the Daniel Pearl Act authorizing the State Department to compile a list of countries violating freedom of expression. We have not yet been able to congratulate him on signing the Federal Shield Law, which he once backed and more recently opposed. But we'll see what happens when the Senate passes the bill. We also wrote two protests to U.S. authorities, one to the Coast Guard for apparently following BP's orders to shoo journalists off a polluted beach and the other was to the sheriff of Fort Myers for trying to eject a TV reporter from his news conference.

But these were minor tyrannies. Over much of the world, journalists had a terrifying year. They were murdered and kidnapped by criminals, terrorists and government officials. They were branded as traitors and criminals by more than a few governments. They were faced with new laws that made the normal work of a journalist a criminal offense.

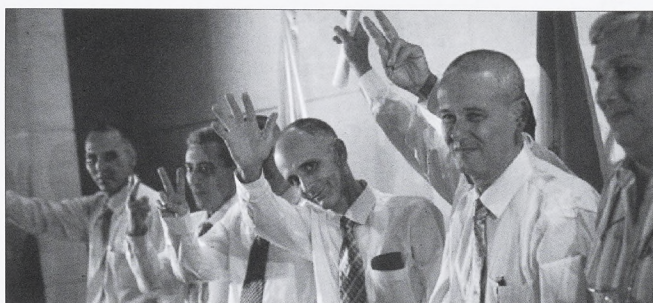
There was of course the horrendous massacre of 26 journalists who were among 57 people massacred in the Philippines on November 1. The killings and kidnappings go on in Mexico. Last month, five Mexican journalists were murdered and three Mexican TV stations were attacked with explosives. Nine Honduran broadcast journalists were shot to death in a space of four months this year. Journalists are murdered with impunity in these countries, as well as Russia, Ukraine, and Africa.

We have, of course, written letters to these governments and many others urging them to give journalists better protection and follow through with prosecutions. But we're also following the attempts by many governments to write more stringent laws and regulations to control the press. Reporters sans Frontiere (RSF) reports that "the amount of Draconian legislation has unfortunately hugely increased within the European Union and elsewhere in the world." Notably:

■ In Italy, the Senate has passed a bill that would restrict the publication of information obtained from wire taps. The bill would certainly make it harder to publish scandalous news about Prime Minister Berlusconi. There have been nationwide demonstrations and strikes against the gag law and I don't know where it stands now.

■ In Ukraine, which has a terrible record on freedom of expression, President Yanukovich signed a law on "personal information protection." You can gather any generally available information about a person but you can't even print his or her name without that person's permission. This would also seem to be aimed at stopping criticism of the government. Incidents of journalists being roughed up by police, threats to nullify TV licenses also continue in the Ukraine. One journalist has gone missing since August 11. Incidentally, Ukraine's chief of security is one of the richest men in the country and owns a media empire.

■ In South Africa, which would seem to be heading in the direction of real democracy, the ruling ANC is considering a "protection of information law," which would ban the publication of information deemed against the national interest and punish



Seven former political prisoners released by the Cuban government after arriving at Madrid Barajas Airport on July 13.

violators with prison terms up to 25 years. Such information could be covered by broad definitions such as "matters relating to the advancement of public good." The ANC has been infuriated by the revelation of scandals, some wild but others justified. Fiji, which already censors its press, has now decreed that all media be at least 90% locally owned. The obvious and only target of this action is the Fiji Times, which is part of Rupert Murdoch's empire.

■ Ecuador has made a number of violent and non-violent moves against the press. President Correa considers the media to be treacherous. A new law would be set up, among other things, a national Communications and Information Council, and prohibit the publication of news obtained from "secret" sources.

We have written or are about to write protests to all of these governments, as well as the usual suspects. We wrote four letters to Russia, two to China, two to Pakistan and eight to various African dictators. In all, our nine FOP members wrote 55 letters in the last year (these letters are searchable by country, year and within the text on the OPC website: www.opcofamerica.org). This is somewhat fewer than we have written in other years. We are tending to focus more on governments which might care what we write. Of course, we still want to call out any government that commits glaring crimes, such as Russia, or where criminals have impunity, as in Mexico, even though the government is unlikely or unable to react.

As you all know, we have had discussions about how to make the Freedom of the Press Committee (FOP Cmte) more effective. We cannot possibly match the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) or Reporters sans Frontiere (RSF) or International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) with their large budgets and resources, but we could sharpen our approach and be less derivative of their work. One thought, advanced by Bob Dowling, is that there be a follow-up to our letters to see how the people we are trying to protect are faring, to get in touch with their colleagues and relatives to show at least that we care. He suggested that we have a data base of press victims; whether they are in jail or being prosecuted, or, in the case of murdered journalists, we could update investigations, if any. We could track changes in the law or government or government policy. The other free press organizations do this to some extent, but very often, they report a case of abuse and then you hear no more. We could provide that follow-up. Of course, considering our size, we would have to focus quite narrowly, and even so, we would need more help than is available now. That is something for the Board to consider.

Respectfully submitted by: Jeremy Main, Co-chair



PEOPLE... with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER:

Haley Sweetland

Edwards, OPC Foundation's 2009 Irene Corbally Kahn scholarship winner, has moved from Yemen to Tbilisi, Georgia, where she is a freelance correspondent for the *Los Angeles Times* and AOL News. Haley won the scholarship with an essay on how new media technologies can give voice to people in regions torn apart by ethnic, racial or religious differences.

MURDERS: **Allen Quicke**, 57, editor-in-chief of Asia Times Online, was murdered August 17, stabbed seven times and beaten on his head in his rented house at Hua Hin, Thailand, south of Bangkok. Police said Quicke came home with a Thai bar girl, and they were looking for the girl and her boyfriend as suspects in the killing. Born in South Africa, Quicke worked on newspapers in that country and for the *Sydney Morning Herald* in Australia before joining the now defunct *Asia Times* in Bangkok in 1995. In the early 2000s, Quicke was one of the founders of the internet version of *Asia Times*. Also a painter, he earned a fine arts degree in South Africa.

The body of **Ardiansyah Matra'is**, a reporter for Indonesia's Merauke TV, was found naked and handcuffed in a West Papua river July 30 two days after he had been reported missing. He and several other journalists had received text messages in the run-up to local elections that read in part, "Never play with fire if you don't want to be burned."

On July 19, an unidentified man rang the doorbell at the home of Greek journalist **Sokratis Giolias** in his Athens suburban home before dawn and told him someone was attempting to steal his car. Giolias, 37, news director of the private Greek radio station Thema 98.9 FM, went outside to investigate and was shot several times. He died on the spot, his body riddled with 20 bullets from two 9mm guns that a ballistics test showed had been used in earlier attacks by the Rebel Sect, a leftist guerrilla group that published a statement taking credit for the killing. The

assailants fled. It was the first murder of a journalist in Greece in more than 20 years.

Five journalists were murdered in Mexico this summer. **Guillermo Alcaraz Trejo**, 24, video editor of Chihuahua's state human rights website, was fatally killed by masked gunmen outside a Chihuahua newspaper office July 10 when he was hit by at least 40 bullets from an AK-47 rifle. Radio journalist **Marco Aurelio Martinez Tijerina**, 45, was kidnapped on a street in Montemorelos, Nuevo León by gunmen July 9 and his body was found 24 hours later, shot once in the head. **Hugo Alfredo Olivera Cartas**, 27 editor of *El Dia de Michoacán*, was found dead in his pick-up truck outside Apatzingán July 6, three bullet wounds in his head. **Juan Francisco Rodriguez Rios**, 49, and **Maria Elvira Hernández**, 36, husband-and-wife newspaper journalists, were shot at close range June 28 by gunmen in an Internet café they owned in Coyuca de Benitez. Their oldest child witnessed their murder.

Jean-Leonard Rugambage, 34, who published an article linking Rwandan government officers to the shooting and wounding of a dissident who had defected to South Africa, was shot and killed near his home in Kigali, Rwanda June 24. Four days later, police said two men were arrested for the killing, and one of them said he hired the other man to do the shooting. Rugambage was an editor and reporter at *Umuwugizi*, a Kigali independent tabloid that had been suspended. **Jean-Bosco Gasasira**, senior editor at the tabloid, claimed the Rwandan government was behind the murder of his colleague.

Killing of journalists goes on in the Philippines. **Nestor Bedolido**, 50, a reporter for *Kastigador*, a weekly newspaper, was fatally shot at close range June 19 in Digos City in the southern Philippines. Two men on a motorcycle fired six bullets at him while he was buying cigarettes from a street vendor near a bar he owned. Bedolido wrote several exposes on a num-

ber of local politicians during the May presidential election.

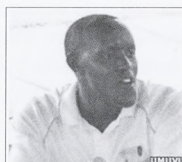
Eight journalists were killed in Honduras in the first six months of 2010, this year's highest toll in any nation. Murdered since the *Bulletin's* last report from Honduras were **Jorge Alberto Orellana**, host of a program on Television de Honduras, a private station, was leaving his office April 22 when he was shot once in the head by an unidentified gunman who fled on foot; and **Luis Antonio Chévez Hernández**, a presenter on Radio W105. He and his cousin were getting out of a car outside Chévez's house April 11 when they were shot by unidentified gunmen who fled. Chévez was killed.

ABIA, Nigeria: Attacks against Nigerian journalists are not uncommon, but they rarely are kidnapped because most of them earn too little to demand a ransom. But gunmen in a speeding car forced a bus with four local journalists and their driver to stop and commandeered it July 11. Later the kidnappers demanded a ransom of \$1.67 million.

ACCRA, Ghana: **Ato Kwamena Dadzie**, editor of Joy FM, and **Emilion Ashon**, editor of the *Ghanaian Times*, were charged in July under Ghana's criminal code of spreading "false information with the aim to cause public fear and panic." Dadzie's charge related to a report on a housing controversy; Ashton's to a headline indicating that armed robbers were staying in a building intended for police use.

BAGHDAD: A suicide bomber blew up his white minivan in front of the Baghdad bureau of Al-Arabiya TV July 26, killing at least four employees of the station — three security guards and a woman cleaner. At least 16 other persons were injured.

BAKU, Azerbaijan: Opposition journalist **Eynulla Fatullayev** was sentenced in July to an additional 30 months



Jean-Leonard Rugambage

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued From Page 5)

in prison for illegal possession of heroin on top of his eight-and-a-half year sentence for criminal defamation for articles he wrote in 2005 and 2007. Fatullayev, founder and editor-in-chief of the newspapers *Gundalik Azarbaycan* and *Realny*, has been imprisoned since 2007.

BEIJING: Gheyret Niyaz, 51, a Uighur journalist, was sentenced to 15 years in prison July 23 on charges of endangering state security. The charges were based on an interview Niyaz gave to *Yazhou Zhoukan*, a Hong Kong news weekly, in which he said he had warned officials in July 2009 that Uighers would protest in northwest China in what turned out to be deadly ethnic rioting.

BEIRUT: Assaf Abu Rahhal, a journalist with the Lebanon newspaper *Al-Akhbar*, was killed in southern Lebanon August 3 in clashes between Israeli and Lebanese armies.

BUJUMBURA, Burundi: Jean-Claude Kavumbagu, editor of the online news agency Net Press, was arrested and charged on July 17 with treason for publishing an article that suggested Burundi's military could not defend the country against terrorist attacks.

BERLIN: Michael Slackman is the new Berlin bureau chief for *The New York Times* after serving as Cairo bureau chief.

CHICAGO: Former publishing tycoon Conrad Black was freed from a Florida prison July 22 after a federal judge in Chicago set a \$2 million bond while he appeals his fraud conviction. His bail was set after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that weakened the "honest services" law that was the center of the prosecution's case against him. Black had been serving a six-and-a-half-year prison sentence following his 2007 conviction in Illinois on charges of defrauding shareholders in his Hollinger International newspaper empire out of millions of dollars.

Earlier in July, Peter Isaac, president of the National Press Club of New

Zealand and an OPC member, sent a letter to U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand David Huebner: "We would be most grateful if you would convey to the proper authority the continued concern of our organization about the incarceration in an American jail of Conrad Black, Lord Black. This concern has intensified following a series of reviews in which the burden of guilt relating to Lord Black has melted away. As a practitioner in our industry Lord Black, at great risk to his own fortunes, constantly created jobs for journalists. Once released and returned to the industry, Lord Black will be in a position to resume this role. His is a presence urgently required in both the American and Westminster spheres of this sector."

DHAKA: Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the opposition newspaper *Amar Desh*, was sentenced to six months in prison and fined in August for contempt of court in publishing an article that criticized the Bangladesh judiciary.

GÓMEZ PALASIO, Mexico: A drug cartel gang kidnapped four Mexican journalists July 26 and demanded their TV stations broadcast video messages provided by the kidnappers and showing people accusing local police officers of collaborating with the Zetas, one of Mexico's most violent drug cartels. The videos, intended to intimidate the police, were broadcast. Federal officials said prison inmates were allowed out at night, and they carried out at least three massacres for drug gangs this year. The journalists were freed a few days later, and three members of the Sinaloa drug cartel, ages 23, 25 and 33, were arrested as suspects in the kidnapping. The journalists were TV cameramen Jaime Canales and Alejandro Hernandez, and newspaper reporters Hector Gordoia and Óscar Solís.

ISLAMABAD: For a reporter, it's all about being in the right place at the right time. Based in New York as a *New York Times* video editor, OPC board member Adam B. Ellick reported from the worst monsoon in Pakistan's history with byline dispatches filed from Islamabad.

KIGALI, Rwanda: Agnes Uwimana, editor of the private newspaper *Umurabyo*, was arrested July 9 on charges of defaming Rwanda's president and

espousing genocide ideology. She was convicted earlier of genocide ideology and faces up to 50 years in prison if convicted again. Her newspaper was the third private newspaper in Rwanda to face legal trouble before up-coming elections.

LONDON: Roger Cohen will retain his Op-Ed column writing for the *International Herald Tribune* and *The New York Times*, but he has changed locations from New York City to London in the summer of 2010. Cohen, who was born in London, was a recent member of the OPC Board of Governors serving from 2005 to 2009.

MOGADISHU, Somalia: A Somali correspondent for *The New York Times*, Mohammed Ibrahim, fled to Nairobi this summer after he received death threats and his attempted arrest by government security forces. He said the threats came after *The Times* published



an article that Mohammed Ibrahim claimed the Somali army employed children as soldiers and armed them. The article carried the byline of Jeffrey Gettleman, *The Times* East Africa bureau chief, and included interviews conducted by Ibrahim with child soldiers. In an e-mail to the International Press Institute, Gettleman wrote that the Somali government "threatened all the local people who helped us report it, including Mohammed; another translator; and even the owner and staff of the hotel where we stayed when we reported that story." The Somali government denied that its army employs child soldiers.



Eight local journalists were wounded June 29 when a bomb exploded in a police school where a news conference was being held by Al Shabab, a Somali Islamist insurgent group linked to Al Qaeda. Four of the injured journalists were treated in a hospital.

NEW YORK: The AP has appointed Steven Gutkin to the new post of oil spill editor. Gutkin, Jerusalem bureau chief for the past six years, now is based in Atlanta



Conrad Black

to oversee the work of reporters and editors who are covering the cleanup and fallout from the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster. Gurkin has covered wars, terrorism and political intrigue in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and the Americas while based as bureau chief in Caracas, Singapore, Jakarta and Jerusalem. He was replaced as Jerusalem bureau chief by **Dan Perry**, AP's Europe editor.

Other AP appointments: **Katherine Corcoran**, 51, enterprise editor for Latin America and the Caribbean, to bureau chief for Mexico and Central America; **Bradley Brooks**, 35, correspondent in Rio de Janeiro, to bureau chief for Brazil; and **Deborah Seward**, Paris bureau chief, to an assistant managing editor in New York.



Pete Hamill has written 10 novels, finished an 11th, written a memoir and four other non-fiction books plus numerous magazine articles, covered several wars and served as editor of the *New York Post* and the *Daily News* of New York. And on this June 26, two days after his 75th birthday, he graduated from high school. Pete dropped out of Regis High School in New York City when he was a 16-year-old sophomore to work in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. And now 59 years later, the high school has awarded him an honorary diploma.

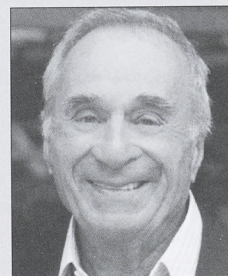


Veteran journalist **Arthur S. Brisbane**, grandson of legendary Hearst editor **Arthur Brisbane**, this summer became *The New York Times* public editor for a three-year term. As the paper's ombudsman, Brisbane, 59, succeeds **Clark Hoyt**. The public editor reports on the work of *The Times'* 1,000 journalists. Brisbane was a reporter and editor at *The Washington Post*, editor and publisher of *The Kansas City Star* and a senior executive at Knight-Ridder.

SEOUL: Samsung Corporation has filed criminal libel charges against British correspondent **Mike Breen** for a column he wrote for *The Korea Times*. In what he meant as a joke, Breen, 57, who is based in Seoul, wrote that Samsung sent photographs of the son of the firm's chairman to its employees as Christmas gifts, implying a comparison to North Korean leader

Washington Post Company Sheds Newsweek

Who is **Sidney Harman**, who bought money-losing *Newsweek* from the Washington Post Company for \$1 and an agreement to absorb the magazine's financial liabilities of about \$50 million? He is an entrepreneur who earned a fortune in audio equipment. He is the co-inventor of the stereo receiver. He served as U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce 1977 to 1978. He recites Shakespeare from memory. He lectures at the University of Southern California on architecture, medicine, law and polymath (cross-disciplinary knowledge). He is author of the autobiography *Mind Your Own Business*. He supports an education and arts program for the under-served. He is the husband of **Jane Harman**, Congresswoman from California. His prescription for a long life: curiosity, humor, daily exercise concentrating on flexes and crunches for the abdomen, and a disciplined diet. He eats a modest breakfast dominated by fruit, a decent lunch and a light dinner. Harman turned 92 this August 4. *The New York Times* sketched his life and quoted him, "Retirement is the enemy of longevity."



Sidney Harman

Harman addressed the staff one day after the sale saying, "I have no thought of investing a great deal of money so I can make a great deal of money. I would be delighted over a period of some years to see *Newsweek* flourish and getting by on its own generated fuel. Break-even is a serious accomplishment, especially in this world, in the world of journalism." He explained his understanding of *Newsweek's* mission, "To make sense of it all! To connect the dots! That's what this publication does and, I think, contrary to much current sport, does it extraordinarily well. I'm a great fan of the current *Newsweek*."

A flood of top-level *Newsweek* staff have left after the sale of the magazine to Harman: OPC member and editor of *Newsweek* **Jon Meacham**. OPC Third Vice President **Arlene Getz** left to take up a new position as Editor in Charge, Media at Thomson Reuters in New York. OPC member **Fareed Zakaria** left for *Time* as a columnist while continuing his weekly program on CNN. National economics correspondent **Michael Hirsh** is joining *National Journal*. Investigative reporter **Michael Isikoff** has been hired by NBC News as a National Investigative Correspondent. **Evan Thomas** left to teach journalism at Princeton and has a book on President Dwight D. Eisenhower in the works. **Dan Gross**, *Newsweek's* economics editor, is headed to Yahoo Finance. On the web side, *Newsweek* Digital editor **Mark Miller** (a 25-year veteran who was also the editorial director of the magazine), *Newsweek* Digital executive editor **Gabe Snyder**, and *Newsweek* Digital general manager **Geoff Reiss** have all departed from the magazine. Meanwhile, **Susanna Schrobsdorff**, who had most recently been developing an education vertical for *Newsweek.com*, has been named interim editor of *Newsweek* Digital.

Kim Il Sung and Kim's son. Samsung dropped its \$1 million civil suit against *The Korea Times*, its editor and Breen, but retained the criminal action.

TOKYO: **Georges Baumgartner**, 55, an Italian correspondent for Italy's all-news channel SKY TG24, was elected president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in June. Elected as one of the Club's directors-at-large was **Kenneth Cukier**, a former judge of OPC awards.



The headline told it all: "Ink Gushes in Japan's Media Landscape." Online news-

papers in Japan have closed or scaled back their operations during the past two years. *New York Times* correspondent **Martin Fackler** wrote in a dispatch from Tokyo:

"For a variety of reasons, cultural as well as economic, the digital revolution has yet to wreck the same havoc on the news media here that it has in the United States and most other advanced countries. The media landscape is still dominated by the same handful of behemoths that have held sway for decades, like the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the world's largest newspaper with daily circulation of more than 10 million."

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued From Page 7)

VALENCIA, Venezuela: Francisco (Pancho) Perez, a columnist for the daily *El Carabobeño*, was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison and fined the equivalent of 16,000 euros (U.S.\$19,797) June 11 after he wrote an article accusing a mayor of nepotism. Perez, who has worked for the newspaper for more than 40 years, was found guilty of "slander and offense" to Edgardo Parra, mayor of Valencia, an industrial and manufacturing city. Published March 30, 2009, the article accused the mayor of appointing his sister, sister-in-law and his wife to senior municipal positions.

VIENNA: Akbar Ganji, an Iranian journalist, was declared a World Press Freedom Hero by the International Press Institute in August. Ganji spent six years in Iran's infamous Evin prison for 1999 articles in the daily *Sobh Emrouz* accusing several political leaders and clerics of involvement in the assassinations of intellectuals and dissidents. He was released from prison in 2006 and left Iran immediately.

The International Press Institute (IPI) has named journalists from Turkey and Gambia as World Press Freedom Heroes. **Nedim Sener**, an author and investigative reporter at *Milliyet*, a Turkish national daily, wrote a book about the murder of **Hrant Dink**, the Turkish-Armenian editor-in-chief of *Agos*. IPI reported, "Sener's controversial book uncovered the involvement of Turkish security agencies in Dink's killing outside of the Armenian weekly newspaper's office in January 2007. His book led to the filing of charges by several senior police and security service officials." After the publication of Sener's book, *The Dink Murder and Intelligence Lies*, several police officers filed criminal charges against the author. He was acquitted of most of the charges in June but still faces some charges.

Pap Saine, publisher and editor of *The Point*, an independent Gambian newspaper, and a longtime Reuters correspondent in West and Central Africa, was imprisoned for two years in 2009 for criticizing the Gambian president in comments about press freedom and the 2004 murder of **Deyda Hydera**, who along with Saine was a co-founder of *The Point*. "Because of his reporting, Saine has been arrested,

criminally charged and imprisoned," IPI said. Saine and five other journalists later were pardoned by the Gambian president.



Alison Bethel McKenzie, deputy director of the International Press Institute (IPI), was appointed its interim director this summer to replace **David Dudge**, who resigned to pursue new opportunities.

McKenzie was assistant city editor at *The Boston Globe*, features editor of *The Detroit News* and later its Washington bureau chief, executive editor of the *Legal Times*, managing editor of the *Nassau Guardian* in the Bahamas, a Knight International Journalism Fellow in Ghana and at IPI since 2009.



Alison Bethel McKenzie



Elias Demetracopoulos, an OPC member and Greek journalist who was arrested and tortured by the Gestapo during World War II for his underground activities and now lives in Washington, D.C., is the subject of a profile published in *de Scripto*, the journal of media in Southeast Europe. Written by **Kostas Betinakis** and originally published in *The Scotsman*, the article opens, "It is the story of a Greek investigative reporter who fought the Greek junta, was accused by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency, fought for good causes, and found out about the Greek connection to the Watergate scandal that led to the resignation of a president."



Adrian Mogos, 36, an investigative reporter for the Romanian daily *Jurnalul National*, won the 2010 Award for Outstanding Merits in Investigative Journalism. He was selected in July for the €5,000 prize from 24 journalists in 11 European nations by the Central European Initiative and the South East Europe Media Organization. Mogos' reporting

included slave trade in Europe, illegal deforestation in Romania and abuse against Roma children trafficked to the United Kingdom.

WASHINGTON: David Ignatius, a *Washington Post* columnist, will receive the Founders Award for Excellence in Journalism for his commentaries on international affairs during the annual awards dinner of the International Center for Journalists November 9. Ignatius covered the wars in Lebanon and Iraq when he was Middle East correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*. He also has been executive editor of *The International Herald Tribune* and *The Washington Post's* foreign editor.

YAMOOUSSOUKRO, Ivory Coast: The editor, managing editor and director of publications at the newspaper *Le Nouveau Courrier*, were arrested July 13 on charges of stealing secret documents about a judicial inquiry into corruption in the country's Coffee and Cocoa Bourse. They were released two weeks later, ordered to pay a symbolic fine of one Central African franc each, and their newspaper was fined 5 million Central African francs and suspended for 15 days.

ZVECAN, Kosovo: An explosive device was thrown into the courtyard at the home of **Caslav Milisavljevic**, editor-in-chief of Radio Kosovska Mitrovica, in the early morning of July 20. No one was injured in the blast, but three automobiles were damaged.

WEDDINGS

Katherine Drake, 32, a former *Time* correspondent in Hong Kong, and **David Czehut**, 30, an executive director in the credit sales group at Morgan Stanley in New York City, were married August 8 at Firestone Vineyard in Los Olivos, California by an Evangelical Covenant minister. The bride, who left the magazine in 2004, now is studying for a Ph.D. in sociology at Harvard University.



Arnold Zeitlin, a former AP manager in Manila and Pakistan and later a UPI manager in Hong Kong, and **Karen Zhang Songyi**, who is pursuing a master's degree in creative writing at Chatham

University in Pittsburgh, were married July 25 at the Marriott Westfields Hotel near his home in Centreville, Virginia. Arnold and Karen met in 2003 in Guangzhou, China, where he is a visiting journalism professor at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, and she was editor of the English-Chinese magazine *crazy English*. Arnold's first wife, **Vicky Shek**, was killed several years ago in an automobile accident shortly after arriving at Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C.

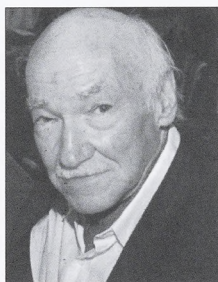
◆

Emily Hsiu-ching Chang, 29, a CNN correspondent in Beijing, and **Jonathan D. Stull**, 30, were married July 4 by a Universal Life minister at the Loulu Palm Estate in Haleiwa, Hawaii. A former associate in the Beijing office of the British private investment firm Actis, Stull now is studying for an MBA at the University of California, Berkeley.



PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Jerry Flint, 79, who covered the automotive industry for more than half a century, died of a stroke August 7 in Hudson, New York. He was the husband of **Kate McLeod**, a board member of the OPC Foundation. Flint joined *The Wall Street Journal* in 1956 as a staff writer in its Chicago bureau, moving to Detroit a year later. After 11 years with the *WSJ*, he became Detroit bureau chief for



The New York Times. He moved to New York in 1973 as *The Times* chief labor reporter and assistant to the national and financial editors. He joined *Forbes* in 1979 as its Washington bureau chief and returned to New York four years later as the magazine's assistant managing editor and senior writer. Although retired from *Forbes* in 1996, he continued writing columns including "Backseat Driver" until his death. Flint won the 2003 Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and

Past OPC President and Veteran Foreign Correspondent

Barrett McGurn, 95, OPC president 1963 to 1965 and a veteran foreign correspondent and government spokesman, died July 2 at his home in Bethesda, Maryland. He had pancreatic cancer. After graduating from Fordham University in 1935, McGurn worked for the *New York Herald Tribune*. A soldier during World War II, he was assigned as a correspondent to the Army's *Yank* magazine.



After the war, he became the *Herald Tribune's* bureau chief in Rome and Paris, and he covered the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Changing careers, McGurn became a press attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Rome in 1966, and he was a press officer at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon during the Vietnam War. He moved to the State Department in Washington in 1969, and served as the first spokesman for the Supreme Court from 1973 to 1982. After retiring in 1982, he was a spokesman for the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.

McGurn won a 1956 OPC award for best spot news reporting from abroad. He wrote five books including memoirs from his three careers: *Yank: The Army Weekly: Reporting the Greatest Generation*, *A Reporter Looks at the Vatican* and *America's Court*.

Financial Journalism. Known as Jerry, Yehudi Meyer Flint was an OPC member from 1997 to 2002. In his memory, the Flint family suggests donations to the OPC Foundation for a scholarship in his honor.

◆

K. M. Mathew, 93, chief editor of India's *Malayala Manorama* newspaper and a pioneer in Indian journalism, died at his home in Kerala, India, August 1. He was buried with full state honors.

◆

Lee Lockwood, 78, an American photojournalist who reported from Cuba and North Vietnam during the Vietnam War, died July 31 of complications from diabetes in Tamarac, Florida. In 1965, he persuaded Fidel Castro to sit for a long interview in Cuba. Two years later, Lockwood became the first photographer allowed into North Vietnam in more than a decade. With the country under heavy bombardment from U.S. forces, he photographed ruined villages, deserted factories, Vietnamese people and Lieutenant Commander Richard A. Stratton, a captured U.S. Navy pilot. Lockwood's work was distributed by the Black Star photo agency to newspapers and magazines throughout the world. He wrote several books based on his reporting.

John Lewis was CNN's first correspondent in Asia when he was hired in 1981 and assigned to Tokyo. He worked 18 years for the network, based most of the time in Japan but also covering the Tiananmen Square trouble and two assassination attempts against Indira Gandhi. He moved to Honolulu several years ago to work for the East-West Center and later for the public relations firm Communications Pacific. After a series of heart attacks, Lewis died July 29 in Honolulu. He was 63.

◆

Former CBS News correspondent and bureau chief **David Dick**, 80, died July 16 of cancer at his home in his native Kentucky. Dick worked at CBS from 1966 to 1985, winning an Emmy for his coverage of the assassination attempt on then-presidential candidate George Wallace. He served as South American bureau chief from 1978-1979. After CBS, Dick became director of the University of Kentucky's school of journalism. He wrote several books, including one on his 17-year battle with prostate cancer.

◆

Pius Njawe, 53, founder of Cameroon's first independent newspaper, was killed instantly July 12 when the car in which he was riding was struck by a truck on a Virginia highway. Njawe was

(Continued on Page 10)

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in the United States to attend a meeting of the Cameroon Diaspora for Change. When he was only 22, he founded *Le Messenger*. His writings and editing got him in trouble with Cameroon authorities, who arrested him 126 times and imprisoned him three times. He won several international press awards and was named a World Press Freedom Hero by the International Press Institute in 2000. In 2002 Njawe's wife Jane, 42, also was killed in an auto accident while she was on her way home, leading him to founding a Cameroon organization for road safety.



Roberto Suarez, 82, a Cuban refugee who founded Miami's Spanish-language newspaper *El Nuevo Herald*, died of complications of Alzheimer disease at his Miami home July 7. After working to improve *The Miami Herald's* coverage of Cuban-American affairs, Suarez founded *The Herald-owned El Nuevo Herald* as a conservative anti-Castro paper. Starting in *The Miami Herald* mail room, he worked up to president of The Miami Herald Publishing Company and retired in 1995. Born in Havana, Suarez played on the same basketball team with Fidel Castro when they were students in a Jesuit preparatory school in Havana.



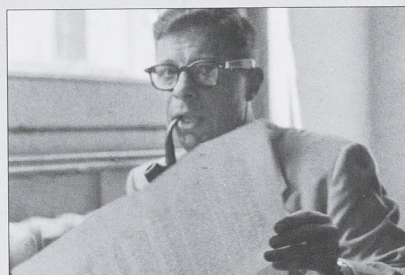
Bill Hudson, 77, a U.S. Army photographer in the Korean War and later an AP photographer of the U.S. civil rights struggle, died of congestive heart failure June 24 in Jacksonville, Florida. His "powerful images of the civil rights era documented police brutality and helped galvanize the public," AP wrote in his obituary. After Korea and before AP, Hudson worked for *The Press-Register* in Mobile, Alabama, and *The Chattanooga Times* in Tennessee. After AP, he joined UPI in 1974.



Lolita (Lolly) Thetford, 85, a former newspaper reporter in Brazil and the United States, died June 19 three weeks after she fell and lost consciousness in an Oklahoma City assisted living facility where since April she was being cared for dementia. Lolly was born in Rio de Janeiro when her father, **Grant Keener**,

Daniel Schorr, Seventy Years in Journalism

Daniel Schorr, 93, who once described himself as a "living history book," died July 23 at a Washington, D.C. hospital after a brief illness. Schorr covered world news for 70 years, and he won three Emmy Awards for his coverage of the Watergate scandal. His work in broadcasting and print brought him into conflicts with censors, the Nixon administration and network superiors. After several years as a stringer, Schorr joined CBS News in 1953 as one of the later generations of the Edward R. Murrow Boys.



Daniel Schorr in 1957, as a television correspondent for CBS News.

He opened the CBS bureau in Moscow in 1955, and in 1957 he obtained an exclusive interview with Nikita Khrushchev, the first TV interview given by the Soviet Communist Party chief and also Schorr's first TV interview. But after a trip home in late 1957, the Soviet Union denied him a return visa because he repeatedly had defied Soviet censors. In 1962, he aired the first examination of everyday life under communism in East Germany, a report *The New York Times* called a "journalistic coup." Schorr later reported from Washington, where he became No. 17 on President Nixon's "enemies list." In 1979, he was among the first correspondents hired by the new CNN to deliver commentary and news analysis. He joined National Public Radio in 1985 as senior news analyst, a position he held until his death, still offering commentaries up to 13 days before he died. He narrated the TV miniseries "Watergate" in the late 1990s, and he appeared briefly as a newscaster in three Hollywood movies.

Born in the Bronx to Jewish immigrant parents from what is now Belarus, Schorr started his journalism career when he was 12 years old and came across a woman who had jumped or fallen from the roof of his apartment building. After calling police, he phoned the *Bronx Home News* and was paid \$5 for his information. Before serving in U.S. Army intelligence during World War II, Schorr worked for his Clinton High School student newspaper, the *Jewish Daily Bulletin*, while attending City College in New York and Aneta, the news agency of the Netherlands East Indies. He also worked briefly as a journalism professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and as a columnist at *The Des Moines Register and Tribune*. For several decades he wrote a column for *The Christian Science Monitor* and was the author of a 2001 memoir *Staying Tuned: A Life in Journalism* [Pocket Books].



was the United Press manager in Brazil. She grew up across the street from Copacabana Beach speaking Portuguese and English. At 18, she enrolled in her father's alma mater, the University of Oklahoma, graduating with a degree in journalism in 1948. She then became a reporter on the English-language *The Brazil Herald* in Rio. During that time, she met **E. K. Gaylord**, owner of *The Daily Oklahoman* of Oklahoma City, who told her she should drop in when she was next in Oklahoma City. She did, and she became a reporter for *The Oklahoman* in 1950. In 1952, Lolly married **Frances Thetford**, a *Daily Oklahoman* columnist and desk editor, now deceased. After *The Oklahoman*, Lolly worked at KTVY Channel 4, an Oklahoma City TV station. After retiring, she served as a volunteer mentor to young children, most recently a girl about 12 years old.

The London Press Club reported the deaths of several correspondents: **David Kimche**, 82, moved to Palestine in 1948 and became a correspondent for the *Jerusalem Post*. He joined Mossad, Israel's external security service, and was posted to Africa and Asia as a spy, often under journalistic cover using the name **David Sharon**. He died March 8. **Bill Millinship**, 80, a senior editor and foreign correspondent at London's *The Observer*, died January 16. He reported from Paris, the Algerian War, London and Washington during Watergate. **Rupert Hamer**, 39, a correspondent for the *Sunday Mirror* of London, was killed in Afghanistan January 9 when an explosive device hit the vehicle in which he was traveling with U.S. Marines. He also reported from Iraq.

New Books

GLOBAL

THE OIL DISASTER in the Gulf of Mexico adds to the importance of this book, *Seasick: The Hidden Ecological Crisis of the Global Ocean* [Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, and Chicago: University of Chicago Press] by **Alanna Mitchell**, a reporter on the Canadian newspaper *The Globe and Mail* for 14 years until late 2004. Her book won this year's \$75,000 Grantham Prize for Excellence in Reporting on the Environment, the first time the prize was won by a Canadian and by a book. Philip Meyer, chairman of the Grantham Prize jury, said, "Reading Alanna Mitchell convinces you that the ocean is at least as important as the atmosphere when we worry about climate change."

ASIA

JAPAN'S LARGEST POW CAMP was located in Mukden, Manchuria, where winter temperatures dropped to 30 and 40 degrees below zero. During World War II, more than 36,000 American men were thrown into Japanese POW camps, and more than 2,000 of them were imprisoned in Mukden where they manufactured parts for Mitsubishi Zero fighter planes. **Linda Goetz Holmes**, a Pacific War historian and an OPC member, spent more than 10 years researching the Mukden camp, interviewing survivors and combing archives to write *Guests of the Emperor: The Secret History of Japan's Mukden POW Camp* [Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press]. Mukden prisoners were subjected to cold, starvation, beatings and medical experiments, and they were forced to manufacture parts for the planes that fought Americans in the Pacific

Welcome to New Members

Michelle Betz
Media Development
Consultant and
Freelance Journalist
Cairo, Egypt
Associate Overseas

Rebecca Blumenstein
Deputy Managing Editor
The Wall Street Journal
Active Resident

Marie-Helene Carleton
Co-Managing Director
Four Corners Media
Active Resident

Dana Chivvis
Writer
AOL News
Active Resident - Young

Kimberly Dozier
Intelligence
Correspondent
Associated Press
Washington, DC
Active Non-Resident

Yashuhisa Kawamura
Director, Press
Information
Consul General of Japan
Associate Resident

Mariama Keita
Global Affairs
New York University
Student

Sarah Lubman
Partner
Brunswick Group
Associate Resident -
Reinstatement

Drake Lucas
Communications
Associate
Human Rights Watch
Associate Resident -
Young

Santiago Lyon
Director of Photography
Associated Press
Active Resident

Abigail Pesta
Editor-at-Large
Marie Claire
Active Resident

Tom A. Peter
Jordan Correspondent
Global Post / Freelance
Active Overseas

Amber Qureshi
Senior Editor
Free Press
Associate Resident -
Young

Marcel Saba
Director
Redux Pictures
Active Resident

Kathryn Semogas
Communications
Associate
Human Rights Watch
Associate Resident -
Young

Gillian Tett
U.S. Managing Editor
Financial Times
Active Resident

Manuela Zoninsein
Freelance Stringer
New York and Beijing
Active Overseas -
Young

A special thanks to
Yvonne Dunleavy for
underwriting Young
members that joined the
OPC at the Tchotchke
Party in March.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
George Bookman, Chair
David Fondiller
Felice Levin
Linda Goetz Holmes

Theater. Holmes writes that some Americans at Mukden were singled out for experiments by Unit 731, Japan's infamous biological warfare team. Unit 731 selected "some American POWs to receive certain toxins by inhalation, ingestion, or injection in order to determine their level of reaction and/or the dosage

needed for effective infection," she writes.

Roger Mansell, director of the Center for Research Allied POWs Under the Japanese, wrote in a blurb, "Holmes spares no one in telling the truth about the Mukden camp...it is not a story of honor, but truth is rarely pretty."

— by Al Kaff

Taiwan-China Trade Agreement Was at the Forefront of Discussions at July Luncheon

EVENT RECAP: JULY 13

by Aimee Vitrak

Johnny Chi-Chen Chiang, Taiwan's information minister, addressed guests at a luncheon sponsored by the OPC and the Carnegie Council by saying trade is Taiwan's lifeline "so we cannot allow ourselves to become economically marginalized."

The luncheon took place on July 13, about two weeks after Taiwan signed a

trade agreement with China. Chiang said the agreement is a giant step forward in overcoming Taiwan's economic isolation, building trade, and speeding the integration of Asia. The trade deal slashes tariffs on a range of products and pushes the economies closer, in an effort to ease political hostilities across the Taiwan Strait. Chiang said the government now plans to hold talks with Taiwan's other trading partners in a push to become more integrated into the global economy.

Allan Dodds Frank introduced Chiang and many OPC members were in attendance and asked questions like AP U.N. Bureau Chief Edie Lederer and Board Member Toni Reinhold, Editor in Charge at the Business Editing Desk for Reuters.

Video of Chiang's speech is available online and excerpts on maintaining democracy in Taiwan, China's aging population and Google, China and Taiwan and also the whole video at:
www.opcofamerica.org/taiwan

Meeting With Aspiring Reporters Renews Established Journos

EVENT RECAP JUNE 21

by Allan Dodds Frank

One of the great pleasures and privileges of serving as President of the OPC is enjoying the opportunities to meet journalists from abroad.

So when the State Department invited me to talk with 20 newspaper and broadcast editors and reporters and journalism professors from abroad in late June, it was an opportunity I could not miss. And, as it turned out, neither could our OPC Board member, Ingrid Ciprian-Matthews, the foreign editor of CBS News, who graciously hosted the same group at CBS just hours before I met them at the Foreign Press Center in midtown.

If there ever was a demonstration in the flesh about how much the new OPC website project might link together a disparate group of journalists, this was it: This group should participate immediately. Consider this list of the visitors' countries: Bosnia, Burma, Chile, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Macedonia, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, West Bank, Zambia.

Comparing notes, it turned out Ingrid and I each found the group feisty, well informed and eager to figure out how to get more American interest in the news from their respective countries. The visitors also were anxious to try to establish contacts in the U.S. so perhaps they could contribute articles for news organizations here. I tried to give them a realistic understanding of how news judgments are made and what American news people consider to be the most interesting stories from their homelands.

The newsman from Nigeria was concerned about the constant theme of corruption in his home country dominating coverage here. Other Africans present also voiced similar concerns yet agreed with me that with all the oil wealth Nigeria has and the sordid history of its rulers, it is unlikely that perception is going to change any time soon.

I tried to explain that U.S.-based media have a home country orientation and that most of the time, it should. While we might be interested in a "good news" story from Nigeria, it is hard to fathom exactly what that story might be. However, I pointed out that I still do not understand why I have yet to see a story in U.S.-centric media about the effects of the BP oil spill on the Mexican seaside and economy. Could it be that oil only drifts westward and only despoils the U.S.?

With a majority of the guests being journalists from emerging nations, I spent a fair amount of time discussing the assault China is making to corner the nat-

ural resources of that continent. Then I inadvertently managed to rile the female reporter from China's Xinhua News Agency when I referred to the immense environmental damage being done in China as the "rape" of the environment.

Believe me; there is nothing like being the guest lecturer on the defensive. It was a stern reminder that one should never slip to being a rookie reporter; that much of the rest of the audience sprang to my defense was little solace. And I must say, the experience of being challenged by able journalists from around the world was great fun — and I hope many of our members get to experience similar encounters.



At a separate event on June 1, OPC Foundation President Bill Holstein and I also had the pleasure of talking at the OPC to a group of seven young broadcasters from the University of Hong Kong who were being led by their professor and OPC Board member Jim Laurie.

Laurie, a longtime ABC correspondent in Asia, attended the OPC board meeting for the first time, after raising the money to bring his students to the U. S. Laurie told Holstein and myself that we were a little gloomy in our assessments of the news business and the joys of being a foreign correspondent. Maybe he was right, especially in view of the talent and enterprise shown by his students. Keep up the great work Jim! And yes, his students are ideal candidates to use the soon-to-be-developed OPC database.

Coming Up. . .

Scott Peterson
Book Night
with Gary Sick
Let the Swords Encircle Me
September 20
Club Quarters, 6:30 p.m.

P.J. O'Rourke
Book Night
with Chris Buckley
DON'T VOTE
It Just Encourages the Bastards
September 27
Club Quarters, 6 p.m.

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA